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Department of State

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Classification Control: 8739
NOV 17 AM 7 15Rec'd: NOVEMBER 16, 1958
9:47 PM

FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1799, NOVEMBER 17, NOON

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 1799, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 143, BERLIN 21.

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

NOFORN FROM THURSTON

IN MESSAGE TO MCELROY AND TWINING SENT LAST NIGHT (EC 9-6071) GENERAL NORSTAD CONCURS WITH GENERAL HODES THAT WE MUST REACT PROMPTLY TO NOVEMBER 14 INCIDENT INVOLVING SOVIET DETENTION U.S. MILITARY TRUCK CONVOY NEAR BERLIN (USCOB'S UNNUMBERED TO DA NOVEMBER 15). HE ADDS THAT UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED HE WILL INFORM HODES AT NOON NOVEMBER 18 THAT LATTER IS TO PROCEED WITH DESPATCH NORMAL CONVOY BERLIN-HELMSTAD WITH AUTHORITY "EXTRICATE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT BY MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY IF SOVIETS AGAIN DETAIN AND PROMPT PROTEST DOES NOT RPT NOT EFFECT EARLY RELEASE". WITHIN LIMITS OF PROMPT REACTION AS DEFINED BY NORSTAD, I.E., FOUR OR FIVE DAYS, PROPOSED ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN EITHER NOVEMBER 18 OR 19.

IN AUTHORIZING USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN CONTINGENCY STATED, NORSTAD PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT IN CONTEXT CURRENT SOVIET PRESSURE NOVEMBER 14 INCIDENT REPRESENTS DELIBERATE PROBE AND THAT IF WE WAIT TOO LONG TO REACT, WE TIE OUR HANDS AND RUN DANGER OF SEEMING TO RECOGNIZE A DE FACTO STATE OF BLOCKADE FURTHER, HE FEELS THAT BY MAINTAINING ATMOSPHERE OF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WE DO NOT RPT NOT EXAGGERATE SIGNIFICANCE OF EITHER ACTION OR REACTION AND TEND TO KEEP PROBLEM WITHIN LIMITS OF A LOCAL INCIDENT.

A SECOND

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By ACK NARA Date 11/15/83

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--2- 1799, NOON, NOVEMBER 16, FROM PARIS

A SECOND IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS NEED AT THIS TIME TO IMPRESS SOVIETS, ALLIES AND PARTICULARLY WEST BERLIN POPULACE WITH RESOLUTENESS OF OUR POSITION.

NORSTAD BELIEVES THAT PRIOR TO PROPOSED ACTION CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TAKING FOLLOWING PREPARATORY STEPS URGENTLY:

1. INFORM PUBLIC RE NOVEMBER 14 INCIDENT WITH CLEAR EXPRESSION OF OUR POSITION AND RIGHTS VIOLATED BY SOVIET ACTION. HODES PROTEST LETTER OF NOVEMBER 15 TO ZAKHAROV WOULD APPEAR SUITABLE VEHICLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. STATEMENT MIGHT WELL INCLUDE WARNING TO SOVIETS FORESHADOWING INTENDED ACTION. THIS MIGHT BE DONE AT BERLIN LEVEL.
2. COORDINATION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH MILITARY AUTHORITIES BERLIN AND PARALLEL DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH ELSEWHERE. DISCUSSION SHOULD INCLUDE UNDERSTANDING RE LEVEL OF PROTEST TO BE MADE IF CONVOY AGAIN DETAINED AND TIME TO BE ALLOWED TO ELAPSE PRIOR TO ACTION (NORSTAD THINKING IN TERMS OF LOCAL PROTEST AS IN FIRST INCIDENT AND OF TIME INTERVAL OF ONLY TWO OR THREE HOURS).
3. INFORM GERMAN FEDREP AUTHORITIES (CHANCELLOR, IF POSSIBLE) BEFOREHAND.
4. SINCE BERLIN IS ON AGENDA NAC MEETING TOMORROW, THIS WOULD AFFORD U.S. REP TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO NOVEMBER 14 INCIDENT AS EXAMPLE SOVIET PROBING TACTICS AND TO INFORM OTHER PERMREPS OF HODES PROTEST TO ZAKHAROV. AM IN TOUCH WITH USRO ON THIS AND WILL GIVE THEM NECESSARY FACTUAL INFORMATION FOR USE IN EVENT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZES AMBASSADOR BURGESS TO REFER TO INCIDENT. IT MAY ALSO BE ADVISABLE TO BRING NAC INTO PICTURE MORE FULLY AT LATER STAGE.

NORSTAD ADDRESSING

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-3- 1799, NOON, NOVEMBER 16, FROM PARIS

NORSTAD ADDRESSING NATO PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TOMORROW MORNING AND ANTICIPATES QUESTIONS ON BERLIN. IF IN LIGHT FOREGOING AND OTHER CURRENT ASPECTS BERLIN PROBLEM DEPARTMENT HAS ANY SPECIAL GUIDANCE TO OFFER (HE WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE SEEN CIRCULAR 622 AND POLTO 1313), HE WOULD BE PLEASED MAKE USE OF IT ON THIS OCCASION.

LYON

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NOTE: MR. BYRNS: EUR DUTY OFFICER NOTIFIED 10:35 PM 11-16-58
CWO-JSW

NOTE: PASSED OSD, ARMY, NAVY, AIR 11-16-58, 11:30 PM JW

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